



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Changes Continue at Wabash Memorial Toll Bridge *Construction and demolition work to begin*

MOUNT VERNON, Ind. – As the year 2010 is wrapping up, so is the modernization of the Wabash Memorial Toll Bridge. Crews have been busy preparing the area for the implementation of the new electronic tolling system in anticipation of the January 1, 2011 go-live date. Dismantling of the toll booth and removal from the roadway will begin.

On Monday, December 27, crews will close one lane of State Road 62 (S.R. 62) and flag persons will control traffic through the work zone. The lane closure will continue through Thursday, December 30. Flagging operations will begin at 8:00 a.m. and last through approximately 3:00 p.m. local time each day. Inclement weather could alter the work schedule.

On Wednesday, December 29 at 10:00 a.m. local time S.R. 62 will close. Crews will be removing the over head structure and the building from the roadway. This closure is scheduled to be complete by 12:00 p.m. (noon) local time. Motorists should avoid using S.R. 62 during this time. Law enforcement officials will be on site to re-direct traffic during the closure. The detour will re-route motorists using State Road 69 and Interstate 64.

In order to maintain a safe work environment for motorists and INDOT employees, tolls will not be collected beginning Monday, December 27, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. local time through Friday, December 31, 2010. Tolling will resume when the new system becomes effective at 12:01 a.m. local time on Saturday, January 1, 2011.

Additional construction and roadway restrictions may continue after January 1, 2011.

The “Wabash Pass” is the new electronic tolling system that allows users to place a transponder on the front windshield of their vehicle and is scanned by an overhead reader. This will make crossing the structure a stop-free process once all equipment is in place and operational. The electronic tolling option also allows motorists to load money on their account to pay their tolls which eliminates the need of carrying cash or purchasing advance tickets.

Special hours of operation for the Toll Bridge office will continue through Thursday, December 30, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time; however, the office will be closed Wednesday, December 29 due to the road closure and construction. The office will also be closed weekends and holidays (Thursday, December 24, Friday, December 25 and Friday, December 31). Beginning Monday, January 3, office hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time. The office will close at 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 28.

Motorists can continue to call and sign up for an account and transponder by dialing 1-800-279-5758 and asking for the “Wabash Pass”. INDOT staff will take the necessary information over the phone and mail out transponders to motorists. After January 1, it is anticipated motorists will also be able to access their account and add money by visiting www.wabashbridge.com.

The modernization of the toll bridge is part of INDOT's daily function as being good stewards of the Taxpayer's dollars. The bridge is not a part of the Federal Highway Register and is not eligible for federal funding for repairs or replacement. The structure was originally built in 1956 and recently underwent improvements and is currently in year 53 of its estimated 75 year life span. The State did not want to entertain the notion of increasing tolls for the bridge and in order to secure the funding required for the necessary repairs and replacement, refining the tolling process was necessary. By switching to the automated system the State will have a reduction in operating costs and allowing those funds to be retained for capital improvements. The last toll rate increase was in 1984.

INDOT reminds motorists to follow the posted work zone speed limit, use caution and consider worker safety when traveling through a construction zone. For the latest news and information about INDOT, please visit www.in.gov/indot.

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